

Warren County Public Health
Emergency Response and Preparedness Committee
Meeting Minutes - January 13, 2010
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Present: Dan Albert, Pat Auer, Pat Belden, Skip Bessaw, Joseph Bethel, Andy Caruso, Bruce Hersey, Marjorie Kelly, Brian LaFlure, Amy Manney, Angela Meade, Cheryl Murphy, Barbara Orton, Stella Racicot, Shane Ross, Laura Saffer, Gary Scidmore, Warren Snyder, Laura Stebbins & Nicole Johnson, Helen Stern, Sheila Weaver & Suzanne Wheeler, Terry Woodcock - **Present 24.**

Barbara Orton called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. She had everyone introduce themselves as there were a couple of members from the Local Emergency Planning Council (LEPC) present. Effective January 2010, LEPC has been combined with the WC ERP Committee.

Public Health Updates

- Barbara Orton, Warren County BT Coordinator:
 1. There are emergency preparedness grants available. If anyone has any emergency preparedness related requests, please submit to Ginelle Jones within two weeks (no later than January 29th). The request must be in writing, and include item specification, three price quotes, and a written justification.
 2. Warren County received the SNS deployment of about 24,900 N-95 masks. Amy and Brian have been instrumental in receipt and are in charge of distribution and inventory. The state has sent out mandates re: fit testing for school nurses, nursing homes and long-term care facilities.
 3. On February 9, 2010, there will be a 13 county regional effort in Ballston Spa to reach out to OMRDD groups so that in the case of a third wave of H1N1 this spring, these special needs populations would be prepared to run their own PODS.
- Helen Stern, PHN:
 1. 7,000 doses of H1N1 vaccine received, 3,000 given; still have a refrigerator full if anyone needs or wants any. It has been a very difficult flu season in that seasonal flu supplies were cut off, clinics had to be canceled, and no information on when more vaccine would arrive. All 300 doses of nasal vaccine received were given to children at clinics. Currently holding clinics primarily at schools and Public Health office; but interest seems to be down now. Typically, Public Health holds 20 clinics/year; this year there have been 20 seasonal clinics and 20 H1N1 clinics doubling the amount of work done. Helen said she was very proud of the nurses.
 2. In anticipation of the third wave this spring, it would be great if everyone would get vaccinated ahead of time. CDC is advertising very heavily. If anyone wants to have a clinic, please call Helen. Currently, NYSDOH is even reaching out to faith-based communities.
 3. On February 1, 2010, the STD Clinic is moving, after 30+ years, from the McEchron House on Ridge Street to 526 Glen Street. Notification efforts are currently in the works.
- Laura Saffer, BT Health Educator:
 1. Due to mandates from the state, concentration has been put on N-95 Respiratory Protection Program and fit testing for school nurses, nursing homes and long-term care facilities. The fit testing procedure was explained.

Agency Updates

- Marjorie Kelly, Director of Human Resources Dept., ACC:
 1. A H1N1 clinic is scheduled for the last week in January.
- Cheryl Murphy, Emergency Services Coordinator, American Red Cross:
 1. Had a really busy fire season in December
 2. Always working on preparedness and supplies
 3. Currently working on services to Armed Forces - an outreach to local family members who have someone deployed.

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- Terry Woodcock, Glens Falls Regional Director, Home Therapy Equipment:
 1. Home Therapy is merging with another company in February.
 2. Home Therapy has all the fit testing equipment if Laura Saffer should need help.
- Laura Stebbins, Director of Emergency Preparedness, Glens Falls Hospital:
 1. The Hazard Vulnerability Assessment list was reviewed with the group (this is done annually). Laura asked if anyone had any additional information she should know. She asked about any new chemicals in the area. Amy said it was being reviewed, should be out by March, and she would work with Laura then.
 2. Laura reviewed the 2010 Tabletops and invited everyone to attend. Warren Snyder noted thunderstorms and power outages are a major problem in the summer time and would it be possible to incorporate this element into one of the scheduled tabletops. Bruce suggested incorporating Chaplains from the prison system as they are an integral part of emergency preparedness. She thanked everyone for their input. If anyone has other suggestions, please let her know.
 3. As a result of last year's HAZMAT drill, GFH is doing additional training with hospital DeCon group.
- Gary Scidmore, EMS Coordinator:
 1. In June, EMS is looking at doing a large scale drill with emphasis on the pediatric population.
 2. Noted the GFH tabletops were very impressive and realistic
- Shane Ross, Chief Deputy, Sheriff's Office:
 1. Continually working on grants. Currently trying to stay ahead to be in compliance with radio frequency.
 2. Staffing is always an issue. He expressed concern about security issues and being able to provide security for PODS, etc. He explained the road patrol was cut by 25%, and the call load was up 61%.
- Andy Caruso, Maintenance Director, Lake George School:
 1. On January 21, 2010, the school will have its first tabletop exercise with assistance from various emergency response partners. The scenario will not be known until the morning of the exercise.
- Amy Manney, Deputy Director, OES:
 1. OES was awarded a regional grant with Washington and Saratoga Counties for equipment for animal response. A CART (County Animal Response Team) Plan needed to be in place in order to receive the equipment. She thanked everyone who helped with the Plan which was being mailed to NYSDOH tomorrow.
 2. Work continues on the HAZMAT plan with the first draft and corrections from the state being completed and re-submitted.
 3. LEPC and ERP are combining their committees as they address the same issues.
 4. A final Chempack review meeting with Barb is tomorrow.
- Brian LaFlure, Director, OES:
 1. Funding is always an issue. Homeland Security equipment grants were widened in scope to now include scuba which will help the local Scuba teams.
 2. The HAZMAT drill at Finch Paper last fall went very well. There were some glitches identified from which to learn.
 3. Partnering with Warren/Washington Counties Fire Departments and United Way in installing fire detectors in pre-determined homes.
 4. OES has been working hard with the RACES (Ham radio operators) group. There is now a very active group of about 40 members. They were even able to purchase some upgraded equipment. Laura Stebbins noted Glens Falls Hospital used RACES in their last two drills, and they were very helpful.
- Dan Albert, Project Assistant, NYS Office of Homeland Security:
 1. The 2010/2011 Executive Budget merged several of the state agencies and authorities pending legislation. It will now be called the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services saving approximately \$1.5 million/year.

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- Joseph Bethel, Chief, Glens Falls Police Department:
 1. The new telephone system is in place and connected to the generator.
 2. Continue to move ahead with scenario-based trainings in schools.
- Warren Snyder, NWS:
 1. Late March/April is Flash Flood/Hazardous Weather Awareness Week. Materials can be made available to anyone who would like them.
- Pat Auer, Director, Warren County Public Health:
 1. Reminded everyone about submitting any emergency preparedness requests they might have. She said the grant reporting requirements are a total nightmare - worse than any she has ever seen.
 1. As a follow-up, she added the nurses at the clinics have done a tremendous job.
- Sheila Weaver, Commissioner, Department of Social Services:
 1. DSS is now in the new building and trying to work through getting to know the security system. Hoping to have a fire drill in the near future.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela M. Meade

Remaining 2010 Meeting Dates: (2nd Wednesday) 7:30 a.m.
April 14, 2010
July 14, 2010
October 13, 2010

West Glens Falls - EMS

Directions:

from the south: I-87 Exit 18 – take a right – just past Carl R's, take your first left (Media Drive) and go to the end.

from the north: I-87 Exit 18 – take a left – just past Carl R's, take your first left (Media Drive) and go to the end.